

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 385143
ORIGIN EAP-00RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 PCH-04 ONY-00 /005 R
DRAFTED BY: EAP/K:STAFF
APPROVED BY: EAP/K:TPHDUNLOP
EAP:STAFF ASSISTANT EUR/SOV:SYOUNG
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
EAP ONLY

-----030411 120418Z /66

O R 120112Z DEC 87 ZEX
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPAC HONOLULU
AMCONSUL BARCELONA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
SUVA POUCH
VIENTIANE POUCH

S E C R E T STATE 385143

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EAP ONLY-CINCPAC FOR FPA ONLY, PARIS/KANEDA, GENEVA/MCKEE

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS:PINS, KS, US
SUBJECT: WEEKLY STAUS REPORT: KOREA - 11 DECEMBER 1987

MOSCOW/ CLAPP, USUN/BUZACKI, BARCELONA/PARKER

TO: EAP - DR. SIGUR

FROM: EAP/K - THOMAS P.H. DUNLOP

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 385143

1. (C) TEMPERATURES RISE IN COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION (EWK)

WITH THE KOREAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION BUT A WEEK AWAY --
DECEMBER 16 -- TENSIONS ARE RISING. NONE OF THE BIGUNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAMUEL V SMITH
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 25X6
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 11 DEC 2017
DATE/CASE ID: 06 AUG 2009 200807065

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

SECRET
 UNCLASSIFIED
 THREE -- THE GOVERNMENT'S ROH TAE WOO AND KIM DAE JUNG AND KIM YOUNG SAM OF THE OPPOSITION -- IS A CLEAR WINNER. ALL THREE HAVE HAD RALLIES DISRUPTED BY VIOLENCE. THE LATEST AND WORST CASE WAS AN INCIDENT AT A ROH RALLY IN NORTH CHOLLA -- KDJ'S HOME GROUNDS. THIS WEEKEND WILL SEE A FINAL SERIES OF HUGE RALLIES IN THE SEOUL AREA, WITH POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE ACCORDINGLY. MOST EVENTS -- INCLUDING SOME INVOLVING A MILLION OR MORE PEOPLE -- HAVE HOWEVER BEEN ORDERLY. YOUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPEECH STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF A FREE ELECTION,

ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESULTS, AND NEED FOR RECONCILIATION CAME AT THE RIGHT TIME, AND HAS RECEIVED EXCELLENT MEDIA TREATMENT HERE AND IN SEOUL. WE CAN EXPECT MORE RUMORS OF CAMPAIGN CHEATING AND GOVERNMENT MANIPULATION IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, AND THERE WILL BE INTENSE INTEREST IN WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT ALL THIS.

2. (C) OBSERVERS: NATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE JOINS THE OBSERVER TRAIL (EWK)

 THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE HAS FINALLY DECIDED TO SEND OBSERVERS TO SEOUL FOR NEXT WEEK'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. THE GROUP JOINS AT LEAST FOUR OTHERS OF WHOM WE KNOW WHO WILL BE "OBSERVING" IN SEOUL THIS WEEK. THE GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE REMAINS WARILY RECEPTIVE TO THE CONCEPT OF ELECTION "STUDY" OR "VIEWING" AS OPPOSED TO "OBSERVING," AND WE ANTICIPATE THEIR ACTIVITIES WILL BE RELATIVELY UNIMPEDED.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 385143

3. (C) SOLARZ SCHEDULES KOREA HEARING FOR DECEMBER 18 (EWK)

 STEVE SOLARZ HAS SCHEDULED A POST-ELECTION HEARING ON KOREA FOR 10 AM, DECEMBER 18. YOU WILL BE THE ONE AND ONLY WITNESS. WE REMINDED STAFFER STANLEY ROTH THAT WHETHER OR NOT SUCH A PUBLIC EVENT IS A GOOD IDEA WILL DEPEND ON THE ELECTION AFTERMATH. ROTH SAID THAT SOLARZ UNDERSTANDS THAT WELL.

4. (C) KAL 858: A MURKY TALE GETS MURKIER (JAM)

 ELEVEN DAYS AFTER THE TRAGIC LOSS OF 115 LIVES ABOARD KAL 858, WE STILL DO NOT KNOW THE FACTS. THE SURVIVING

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

SUSPECT HAS BEGUN TO TALK TO INVESTIGATORS, BUT THE STORY SHE TELLS IS FULL OF INCONSISTENCIES AND UNLIKELY EVENTS. SHE HAS APPARENTLY ADMITTED THAT SHE TOOK THE CYANIDE AT THE BEHEST OF HER DEAD TRAVELING COMPANION BUT HAS NOT ADMITTED TO KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT BLOWING UP THE AIRPLANE.

SECRET
UNCLASSIFIED

B1

WE HAVE ASSISTED
IN THE SEARCH FOR THE KA 858 WRECKAGE, BUT RESULTS ARE
STILL UNCERTAIN.

5. (C) PANMUNJOM: A TENTATIVE STEP FORWARD (JAM)

MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION (MAC) STAFF OFFICERS
INFORMALLY MET FOR THE SECOND TIME RECENTLY. DURING THIS
MEETING, THE ATTENDEES DISCUSSED SEVERAL IMPORTANT ITEMS,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 385143

INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF ELIMINATING ALL MILITARY
FACILITIES AND GUARD POSTS FROM THE JOINT SECURITY AREA
(JSA). WE WERE ALSO PLEASED BY GENERAL MENETREY'S TIMELY
SUGGESTION THAT THE UNC RESPOND TO THE NORTH KOREAN
REQUEST THAT A PARTICULAR ROK PROPAGANDA SIGN ALONG THE
DMZ BE REMOVED, BY PROPOSING THAT ALL PARTICULARLY
OFFENSIVE SIGNS BE REMOVED RECIPROCALLY ON A ONE-FOR-ONE
BASIS. WHILE FAR FROM SANGUINE ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR
ULTIMATE SUCCESS ON THESE MATTERS -- THE HISTORICAL
RECORD ALLOWS LITTLE OPTIMISM -- WE WELCOME THE EFFORTS
MADE IN PURSUING THESE LAUDABLE GOALS.

6. (U) KOREAN ECONOMY KEEPS ON ROLLIN' (TJN)

THIRD-QUARTER ECONOMIC FIGURES POINT TO SUSTAINED HIGH
GROWTH, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IMPROVEMENTS, AND LOW
UNEMPLOYMENT. REAL GNP GREW 10.5 PERCENT, LEADING TO
FORECASTS OF 13 PERCENT FOR THE YEAR. EXPORTS AND
INVESTMENTS LED THE WAY, BUT GROWTH SLOWED SOMEWHAT
BECAUSE OF THE LABOR STRIFE AND POOR HARVESTS. GNP PER
CAPITA SHOULD REACH 2,800 DOLLARS; THE NATIONAL SAVINGS
RATE MAY BE AS HIGH AS 36 PERCENT. CAUTIOUS GOVERNMENT
PLANNERS PREDICT GROWTH AT GREATER THAN EIGHT PERCENT FOR

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

SECRET
UNCLASSIFIED

7. (C) INSURANCE: PROBLEMS PERSIST (TJN)

WE CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH KOREA ON GUIDELINES FOR
ESTABLISHING INSURANCE JOINT VENTURES THERE. ROKG
INSISTENCE ON EXCLUDING THE LARGE CHAEBOLS FROM
PARTNERSHIPS REMAINS THE LARGEST HURDLE. EMBASSY SEOUL
HAS COME IN WITH AN EXCELLENT REPORT WHICH REVIEWS KOREAN
POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES ON THIS POINT, OUTLINES A
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 385143

POTENTIAL COMPROMISE, AND PLACES THE ISSUE IN THE CONTEXT
OF OVERALL U.S. INTERESTS IN KOREA. THE EMBASSY WILL
KEEP THE PRESSURE ON; NO ONE IN WASHINGTON HAS GIVEN UP
EFFORTS TO RESOLVE IT EITHER.

8. (C) WHO'S REALLY GONNA WIN -- EAP/K PLACES ITS BET
(JLG)

IN OUR CONSTANT REPETITION OF THE TWO DICTUMS -- THAT WE
HAVE NO PREFERRED CANDIDATE AND THAT THE ELECTION IS TOO

CLOSE TOO CALL, WE NEGLECTED TO COMPARE NOTES EVEN WITH
EACH OTHER ON OUR PERSONAL GUESSES -- AND THEY REALLY ARE
GUESSES -- ON WHO WILL WIN THE ELECTION. WE JUST DID AN
INDIVIDUAL POLL HERE AND -- SURPRISE OF SURPRISES -- ALL
SIX OFFICERS PICK THE SAME LIKLIEST WINNER -- OUR BET IS
XHTIO359JFOHKDOD. AS YOU KNOW, WE'VE BEEN HAVING SOME
PROBLEMS WITH OUR WANG, SO THERE ARE OCCASIONAL
MISPRINTS. ANY MISPRINT IN THIS PARAGRAPH WE'LL CORRECT
NEXT WEEK (AND PROMISE TO TELL YOU -- HONESTLY -- WHETHER
WE WERE RIGHT). WHITEHEAD

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED SUVA AND VIENTIANE.

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET